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BOOK REVIEWS

The Government of the British Empire. By Edward Jenks. Boston, Little, Brown, & Co. 1918. pp. xii, 369.

Mr. Edward Jenks is well known from his many contributions to the history of medieval and English law. The present is a work of somewhat different kind. It is an account of the institutions and practical operation of the British government intended for general reading and study: for "those who have not yet the leisure, or who have not yet arrived at the age, to appreciate" the larger and more technical works, as the preface says. It must be said that Mr. Jenks has succeeded admirably in his purpose, and has made a book which ought to be of great value to the public. It is written in an attractive style; the presentation, though full enough and accurate, is not technical; and the subjects to be emphasized are so well selected that the account is clear and easily retained. The understanding of the various institutions and their operation is made easier by brief historical accounts of their origin and development, going often to remote beginnings, which explain how their especially important features came to be what they are. The book begins with an account of the king's position and of the limited monarchy. Then the position in the Empire of the Dominions and other colonies and possessions is described. There follow chapters on the Cabinet, Parliament, the army and navy, and the Treasury and the other Departments. Particularly interesting to Americans should be the last four chapters dealing with institutions which are essentially the same as ours but rather differently organized: the courts of justice, the established churches, and the two last on local government, allusions to which are often a puzzle to us. While constitutional legislation during the war period is adequately dealt with, there is no attempt to estimate the possible changes which have taken place in the unwritten law of the constitution, as for instance in the responsibility of the Cabinet to Parliament, of which no one can yet predict the permanent effect.

One cannot avoid comparing the book with the older one of Mr. J. A. R. Marriott, "English Political Institutions," which has the same purpose and covers the same ground. Marriott is more full, goes more into detail, has a more scientific air, is more technical and therefore less interesting, and gives a general account which is not more accurate and is less clear. It lacks Jenks's attractive style and, while Marriott may perhaps be a better text book for class room use, Jenks is undoubtedly a better book for the general reading public and ought to find a large use. There is abundant need of a better understanding of English institutions.

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North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration at The Hague: Argument on behalf of the United States. By Elihu Root. Edited by Robert Bacon and James Brown Scott. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1918. cix, 445 pp.

With the exception of the Alabama Claims arbitration at Geneva in 1872, the arbitration of the Fisheries question at The Hague in 1910 settled perhaps the most vexatious, long continued, and economically important dispute which